



NEWS & VIEWS

Achievement & Enjoyment

Headteacher Mr S Bowsher



Mr Bowsher's Headteacher Comment:

Welcome back to the second half of the spring term. I hope everyone had a wonderful week off and found some time to rest and recharge. The weather this week has finally started to feel like spring is on its way, and it has certainly brought a fresh sense of energy around the school.

Classes have launched into new topics in foundation subjects, new areas of maths and new books in English. The enthusiasm for learning has been fantastic to see. One of the highlights of the week was our Choir's trip to sing at the O2 Arena with Young Voices. This incredible event was, once again, a huge success. Despite the very late night, there were many tired but very happy faces the next day! My Superstar of the Week goes to a young man who sang and danced his heart out the entire evening. A huge thank you to all the staff and parents who supported the trip, especially Mrs Calver.

Last half term ended very positively with our two parent consultation evenings. We are incredibly grateful for your continued support and partnership. One issue that did come up from our really positive parent survey was parking. A small minority of parents are still not parking considerately. Please ensure you are not parking on yellow lines (unless you have a valid disabled badge), in the bus stop or on the pavement. The safety of all our children is everyone's responsibility, and we appreciate your cooperation in keeping our community safe.

As mentioned in my letter earlier this week, next Friday is World Book Day, a celebration of the love of reading. Children are welcome to come dressed as any character they choose, although many staff will be dressing up as characters from books by Julia Donaldson. We will have our traditional door decorating competition, parent drop-ins, shared reading between classes, special activities and lessons and, of course, our best costume competition.

All the 'Come dine with me' dates are now below in diary dates. Please put these in your diaries. As my letter said, a letter for each year group will come out about a week before the event. If you came last year, you will know that school dinners these days are really rather good.

Science Week is just over a week away, so please don't forget to get those models finished. This year's theme is "Curiosity – what's your question?" The project showcase will take place on 12 March so please bring projects in by Wednesday 11 March.

Finally, as you know we are headlining the Junior Parkrun this Sunday. It is a 2km course at Hutton Recreation Ground, Wash Road, and children can run, jog, skip or walk. Please arrive for an 8:45am warm-up. Several staff members will be there to cheer everyone on, and all participants will receive one of my Headteacher Awards. Children must be registered in advance at www.parkrun.org.uk/register/ and bring their barcode on the day. Once signed up, please join the Larchwood Lightning Striders group using the QR code on the last page as Miss Chambers will be issuing certificates to those that reach certain milestones e.g. 10 Parkruns. We hope to see lots of you there even if the weather may be a little damp.



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Sad News

It is with great sadness that I must inform you of the passing of Mrs. Payne, one of our midday assistants. Mrs. Payne had been a valued member of the Larchwood community for over 30 years, serving in a variety of roles. For the past ten years, she worked as a midday assistant.

Mrs. Payne had been ill for some time and fought a courageous battle against her illness. While many of our younger children may not have known Mrs. Payne, I know that a large number of our school community will have had the privilege of working with her. She will be deeply missed, and her dedication to the school and the positive impact she had on many children over the years will not be forgotten.

I'm sure you would like to join me in offering our heartfelt sympathies to Mrs. Payne's family during this difficult time. We will be planning a way to remember her in the near future.



Mrs Bowsher's Superstar Award

Harrison in 4CH for his commitment to the choir and Young Voices.



Stars of the Week

RA	RE	1B	1G	2C	2P	3LM
Hugo	Winston	Imogen	Amelia	Kai	Timothy	Isabella
3T	4CH	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R
Mekna	Daisy	Grace	Anesa	Scarlett	Lacey-Ann	Ralphie



Reading at Home

Well done 2P and 6R along with all the all the children who read the expected amount of times.

Class	Table shows numbers of children and percentages who read from Monday 23 February to Friday 27 February			Percentage Read 4 & 5 times %
	Less than 4	4	5	
RA	4 (16%)	2 (7%)	21 (78%)	23 (85%)
RE	1 (3%)	5 (18%)	22 (79%)	27 (97%)
1B	2 (7%)	3 (10%)	24 (83%)	27 (93%)
1G	1 (3%)	6 (20%)	23 (77%)	26 (97%)
2C	2 (8%)	2 (7%)	24 (85%)	26 (92%)
2P	0 (0%)	1 (4%)	24 (96%)	25 (100%)
3LM	5 (26%)	7 (24%)	18 (60%)	25 (84%)
3T	1 (3%)	10 (36%)	17 (61%)	27 (97%)
4CH	3 (10%)	17 (57%)	10 (33%)	27 (90%)
4J	2 (6%)	17 (55%)	12 (39%)	29 (94%)
5L	3 (9%)	4 (13%)	23 (78%)	27 (91%)
5P	2 (3%)	8 (28%)	20 (69%)	28 (97%)
6R	0 (0%)	2 (7%)	27 (93%)	29 (100%)
6H	1 (4%)	0 (0%)	26 (96%)	26 (96%)
Total				93.8%



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Diary Dates

Sunday 1 March	Larchwood headline Junior Parkrun Hutton
Monday 2 March	Boys football cup quarter final vs Holly Trees
Tuesday 3 March	Class RA phonics session
Tuesday 3 March	Year 1 'come dine with me'
Tuesday 3 March	Year 5 / 6 Tag Rugby
Friday 6 March	Larchwood World Book Day and parent reading drop in morning
Tuesday 10 March	Class RE phonics session
Tuesday 10 March	Year 3 'come dine with me'
Wednesday 11 March	Year 4 school trip
Friday 13 March	LPPA Quiz Night
Tuesday 17 March	Year 2 'come-dine with me'
Tuesday 24 March	Year 4 'come dine with me'
Tuesday 24 March	Year 3 Trip Chelmsford Museum
Friday 27 March	Break up for Easter
Tuesday 14 April	Year 6 'come dine with me'
Tuesday 21 April	Year 5 'come dine with me'
Tuesday 28 April	Reception 'come dine with me'



Weekly Attendance

Weekly Attendance – week commencing Monday 23 February 2026

Class	RA	RE	1B	1G	2C	2P	3LM	Whole school
Attendance	95.0%	99.6%	98.0%	97.3%	95.3%	94.4%	98.6%	
Class	3T	4CH	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R	96.9%
Attendance	96.2%	95.9%	97.1%	96.6%	98.6%	95.8%	98.6%	

1 st	2 nd	3 rd
RE	3LM & 5P & 6R	1G



Yearly Attendance

Yearly Attendance – from 1 September 2025

Class	RA	RE	1B	1G	2C	2P	3LM	Whole school
Attendance	93.6%	92.7%	96.9%	96.5%	97.4%	94.4%	95.9%	
Class	3T	4CH	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R	95.6%
Attendance	96.2%	95.2%	96.2%	96.4%	96.3%	93.2%	96.9%	

1 st	2 nd	3 rd
2C	1B & 6R	1G



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Join the Larchwood Lightning Striders
Parkrun group using this QR code.



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